



**Mar.  
2008**

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## Who is the Shamrock Club

*by Brian Witt*

The Shamrock Club is reaching towards its fiftieth year. It is not the same organi-zation today as it was a half century ago. It has grown and evolved, had painful and bitter fights and might have separated and closed down if cooler heads hadn't prevailed. We have lost dance schools, and had acrimonious fights over parades and kilts and more, helped provide the leadership for the largest Irish festival in the world, and brought forth the ICHC.

Here are some of the highlights for people who may not know where we came from. These are not complete, so, once people read it, elaborations and corrections will abound. We are trying to touch upon a number of significant moments in the Club's history. Names might not be mentioned, but the history is there.

**TRIPS TO IRELAND.** Charter trips to Ireland for members were a novel thing in the 1960s. In order to qualify for a trip to Ireland, you had to be a member in good standing. This was at a time when American airlines didn't offer service to Ireland on a regular basis, and Aer Lingus wasn't a real factor in the market. When the airlines realized that the Irish market was a lucrative one, they had legislation passed that reduced the ability of organizations such as the Shamrock Club to continue in the charter business. However, it was a good decade of flying for the Club.

**THE SHAMROCK CLUB DANCERS.** Started by Nina Nash Robertson, it was the first Irish dance school in Wisconsin. After Nina took a teaching position in Michi-gan, Mary Eileen Geary took over the school. In 1982, the dance school split from the Club, with one portion going to the newly founded Trinity Academy, under the direction of Mark Howard, from Chicago, and the other to the Cashel School of Irish Dance.

**IRISH FEST.** Many of the members of the original Irish Fest board were members of the Shamrock Club. For the first two years of the festival, the Club provided the raffle license for the annual drawing for Irish Fest. The two groups have been separate entities, even with the high level of crossover. Former Club president Ed Ward put together a committee to get an Irish

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festival up and running in the late 1970s. It debuted in 1981.

**COLOR GUARD PIPES AND DRUMS.** The Shamrock Club Color Guard originally started as a designated group to carry the Irish and American flags during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1966. For sixteen years, Kit Nash led the Shamrock Club down parade routes, until his retirement in 1982. The same year, 1982 the new Shamrock Club Color Guard made its debut under Ed Reidy, and in the 1983 St Patrick's Day Parade, new uniforms of kilts and berets made their debut. In 1988, it was one of the few American groups to march in the Dub-lin Millennium St. Patrick's Day Parade. Other parades across the country they have appeared in over the years include the Savannah, New Orleans, San Antonio and New York City parades. In 1997, the name was changed to the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums to reflect new status as a pipe band, as well as a ceremonial and honor guard. There are now over forty members of the SCCGPD, and there are also over twenty pipers in the corps

**EASTER RISING MASS.** Started by Kit Nash in the 1970s in honor of his father and the other IRA members who took part in the start of the Irish Rebellion on Easter Monday, 1916. It was held in the chapel at St. Rose's for many years, then moved to Marquette University and then to the ICHC. Father Michael Maher, S.J., has said the majority of the Easter Rising Masses over the decades. He will again say the Mass on March 23.

**MASS IN HONOR OF ST PATRICK.** Color Guard members Joe Pembroke and Chuck McLaughlin started the Mass in Honor of St. Patrick. Joe, a Dubliner from the Liberties, felt that it was a way to keep the day in the correct mood, as it is a Holy Day of Obligation in Ireland. Both of them thought about developing a Mass on or near St. Patrick's Day. It was also another chance for the Color Guard to be on display. As Chuck was a member of St. Patrick's, he felt the Mass would be most appropriately celebrated there. It is in its 23rd year in 2008.

**PARADES.** The Shamrock Club's first parade was in 1967. It was held on Wisconsin Avenue. The parade stayed on Wisconsin until the reconstruction of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge forced them to move to Mitchell Street. There, it ran from First Street to 14 Street and Forest Home. The parade later was moved to North Avenue, running from 52nd to 74th and North Avenues, with a staging area at Steuben Junior High School and a closing area at 74th. The Parade traveled to Bluemound Road in 2000. It was moved to Downtown Milwaukee in 2003. Parade directors have included Danny O'Donoghue, Chuck Ward, Mike Boyle, Tim O'Brien, Mick McDermott, Dan Molloy and Mike O'Leary.

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM.** Members of the Shamrock Club furnished the Irish cottage in the Milwaukee Public Museum, in the European Village. If you stop down, you can see the lace curtains and kitchen table of members.

**JEREMIAH CURTIN HOUSE.** The Jeremiah Curtin House is a unique stone building built in 1846. It was the boyhood home of noted American linguist and folklorist Jeremiah Curtin and is part of the Trim-born Farm estate in Greendale. It was restored and refurbished by fundraising and work from the members of the Shamrock Club.

**IRISH CULTURAL AND HERITAGE CENTER OF WISCONSIN.**

The ICHC grew out of a committee of the Shamrock Club looking to establish an Irish center in Milwaukee. It was a contentious issue for the Club. However, in 1992, the ICHC was incorporated. In 1996, it purchased the former Grand Avenue Congregational Church. The Shamrock Club was the first Irish group to contribute to the Center, donating \$15,000.

We have had a rich history. And in many ways, the Shamrock Club has changed the landscape of the Milwaukee Irish community, as well as the State, and the nation. There are more highlights and events in the Shamrock Club history. This is a reminder that the 50th anniversary celebrations are being planned. If you have ideas of what to do, pass them along. Or if you have memories about the Shamrock Club, we would like to hear those, as well.

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**And Milwaukee's  
2008 Honorees are...**



*Left to right: Joseph Hughes, Linda Tuescher ad Del Canon*

**Joseph Hughes – 2008 Irishman of the Year**

I am truly honored to be named the 2008 Shamrock Club Irishman of the Year. Some of my favorite life moments have occurred while I've been surrounded by the members of the Shamrock Club.

My family tree included the Donahues and the O'Neils so it's no wonder some of my earliest memories of St. Patrick's Day and my Irish Heritage were of course, boiled dinners.

During high school at St. John's Cathedral I learned to play drums and was a

member of the school band. My first exposure to the official Irish community was when I met Marcy Daley, one of the Daley sisters. The Daley sisters invited me to join their group, The Daley Debutantes, as a drummer. I marched with the Debs in several parades, among them the famous Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. Another Daley sister, Sherry, was responsible for introducing me to Miss Bridget O'Brien. Most of you know the rest of the story, which involved one of the biggest wedding parties the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center has seen to date.

A gift membership from my parents was my introduction to the Shamrock Club. Stops at Dick Tierney's Irish Abbey brought out my enthusiasm for Irish music. Tom Mulvanny drafted me to volunteer at Irish Fest and my love of all things Irish began to grow. I responded to an ad in Emerald Reflections for the Shamrock Club's Color Guard. Thus began a twenty year love affair with the group and its many members, some gone now but no less close to my heart.

I've had the wonderful opportunity as a member to watch our Shamrock Club Color Guard expand to become the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. I've had the privilege to participate in leading our group in several events. I became more active in the Shamrock Club, as a board member, then, I had the honor of being elected President of the Club.

Over the past twenty five years of volunteering at Irish Fest, I have gone from volunteering as bartender to co-coordinator of the Cultural Village.

I have also been involved with The Shorewood Men's Club as a member and Board Member and President.

My children have always been at my side, helping first as youngsters to come with Dad for the fun. Now they are volunteering as adults with the Shamrock Club, Irish Fest, and the ICHC. I love them all, my son Joseph, his wife Becky and my grand-daughter Sophia, my daughter Erin and her Fiancé Andrew.

### **Linda Tuescher – 2008 Irish Rose**

Linda Tuescher is married to Tom, is a mother of three (Paige, Brooke, and Todd), and the grandmother of six (Maura, Nick, Tyler, Maeve, Finn, and Tommy). She is the true product of Milwaukee's ethnic melting pot. Her father was Polish, her mother was Irish, English and German. She believes that a person is strongly tied to one's heritage. The ties that pull at Linda are the Wee bit of Ireland.

The pull became stronger after her first of many trips to Ireland twenty years ago. As a result of that trip she added an Irish Corner to her custom picture framing shop and gallery in Racine. She hosted several artists and designers from Ireland that also appeared at the Cultural Village at Irish Fest. The Irish Corner eventually grew into The Irish Trader in Cedarburg. This venture lasted until February 2005 when Linda decided to retire. Retail remained in her blood and brought her to share the responsibilities of the sales booth of the Shamrock Club with Noreen Barkley.

In addition to Linda's involvement with the Shamrock Club, she has served as a Eucharistic Minister for the St. Patrick's Day and Easter Rising masses. Her

green VW convertible has seen a few St. Patricks Day parades.

Linda has volunteered as a member of the ICHC cultural committee as well as serving an elected term on the Board of Directors. The many framed photographs of performers that appear in the hall of the ICHC are compliments of Linda's framing abilities, as are those of several other pieces of artwork in the building.

### **Del Canon – Parade Marshal 2008**

It is an honor to be chosen as your Parade Marshal for 2008.

I first joined the Shamrock Club in 1988 after my wife Pam and I attended our first Irish Fest. I became an active member from the very start, and have served on the Shamrock Club board as both Sgt. at Arms and as Trustee.

In 1991, Chuck McLaughlin, Joe Pem-broke and Tom Neville invited me to join the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. It has been an honor to be in the Color Guard all these years, and watch it grow into the largest Color Guard Pipes and Drums in Milwaukee.

I have had the pleasure of working with Bob Hamill and his crew down at Irish Fest for the past seven years, setting up the Cultural Area.

I served on the committee to erect the memorial for the Lady Elgin.

Several years ago I joined the Emerald Society. These men and women do a great job raising monies for Children's Hospital through the Brendan Heart Fund.

After being volunteered by Pam, I have worked in the Irish Cultural Booth at the Holiday Folk Fair for the past sev-eral years. It is always a pleasure to talk to people about Ireland and the Irish.

Finally, my daughter Erin has kept Pam and me busy with her Irish danc-ing. Irish dancing is a big part of the Irish culture, and Erin has thoroughly embraced it. Her dancing has taken us throughout the United States, and to Canada, Scotland and Ireland. We are once again preparing to go to Ireland to watch Erin compete at the 2008 World Championships.

I am so thankful for all of the friends that I have made through the Shamrock Club, and for Pam and Erin who have supported me all of these years.

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## **South Central Shamrock Club News**

**Congratulations to Kay Scanlon our 2008 Irish Rose And Bill Crowley our 2008 Irishman!**

Saturday, March 8 the South Central Shamrock Club's Banquet and Party

will take place at the Voyageur Inn, Reedsburg, WI (on Hwy. H) beginning at 5 p.m. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Our Master of Ceremony, John Geoghegan, will enrich us with his Irish humor and introductions of our Irishman William (Bill) Crowley and Irish Rose Kay Scanlon of 2008.

The evening's entertainment will be Patrick McCluskey who has a voice that is worth a pot of gold! Zach Ott's talent as a pianist will accompany Patrick with familiar Irish ballads.

Dinner reservations can be made by calling Gloria Judge at (608) 524-3665 or Pat McConaghy at (608) 356-4020 by March 5.

Please mail your reservations, checks payable to South Central Shamrock Club, to:

Gloria Judge  
2227 Winfield Drive  
Reedsburg, WI 53959

Cost of the evening with a chicken/ corn beef dinner is \$25 per person.

Individuals who help to make the St. Patrick's Party a success are Jan Delmore, Corky Powers and Luanne Krohn, Kay Scanlon, Gloria Judge, Pat McConaghy, Tom Scanlon, Suzanne Dischler, Jackie Harris, Annette Baker, John Delmore, Bob and Pat Hanes.

January Birthdays... John Delmore 1/18; John Bill 1/24; Kate Birdsell 1/30; Pat Frederickson 1/30.

February Birthdays... Annette Baker 2/1; Joe Lynett 2/5; Bob Hanes 2/11; Kathy Howley 2/13; Robert "Bob" Judkins 2/14; Suzanne Dischler 2/16; Dan Howley 2/21.

To OUR GREEN and Proud March Birthdays... Trudy Judd 3/3; Wilma Ennis 3/4; Dick Fish 3/17; Tom Scanlon 3/17.

Anniversaries Blessings... John and Jan Delmore 2/21; Vince and Margaret Marchetti 2/7.

New Members – "Céad Mile Fáilte"... Kathleen "Twink" Helland; Dan Howley; LeRoy and Trudy Judd; Charlie Montgomery; Virginia Whitty.

Join Able Trek Tours, Reedsburg, WI, May 24-25 for the Daniel O'Donnell Concert in Moline, IL. Call Able Trek Tours for details at 1-800-205-6713 or (608) 524-3021.

March is a full month as we prepare for the fun of sporting our green finery on the 17th and then the 20th brings us the first day of spring as we hope to see the daffodils and many shades of green to brighten the days ahead.

Next Meeting is April 13 at 4 p.m. (Longley's Restaurant, Reedsburg).

Have a Blessed and Happy Easter and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

*May the leprechauns be near you,  
To spread luck along your way.  
And may all the Irish angels,  
Smile upon you St. Patrick's Day.*

Respectfully submitted,

– Dana J. Horkan-Gant,  
South Central Membership Chair

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### **Shamrock Club of New Dublin**

A Happy New Year to one and all and greetings from the Shamrock Club of New Dublin (New London, Wisconsin)! As preparations are underway in New Dublin for this year's celebration, we are pleased to make these announcements.

The theme for this year's St. Patrick's Day celebration is "New Dublin – Love of My Heart". Our annual parade and Irish Festival will be on March 15 with Mike and Ted Coppersmith of Festival Foods in New London serving as Parade Grand Marshals. Our Irish Man and Irish Rose for 2008 are Shamrock Club members Ed and Marie Jagoditsch of New London. Soon we'll choose our Irish Lad and Lassie (to be announced).

Our week-long celebration of all things Irish kicks off on Monday March 10 when the "Leprechauns" officially change the name of our city from New London to New Dublin; on Tuesday March 11, it's Hooligan's Day the official beginning of all area restaurants serving corned beef and cabbage, some serving as much as 1,500 pounds over the week! On Wednesday March 12 Irish Caroling at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Residency and Franklin Park Apartments for the elderly – it's a great way to share Irish music and celebration with our elderly and shut-in community. On Thursday March 13, it's "An Evening of Irish Entertainment" at the New London High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. music, dance, and variety are featured. On Friday March 14 at 7 p.m. an Irish Ceili is held at Crystal Falls in New London. Each year this evening of Irish dance gets better and better. Also, on Friday evening we'll once again say farewell to Michael Finnegan as his wacky wake makes it's way to area establishments including Pup's Irish Pub at 8 p.m.

On Saturday March 15 the Irish Fest tent opens at 11 a.m. with a mix of original traditional and modern Celtic music from a young Irish music band Rising Gael, from Madison, Wisconsin. Then at 1 p.m. our Grand Parade steps off with bag pipers, floats, high school marching bands and many unique and unusual family and business parade entries. Irish Fest continues after the parade and our featured band performing from 3–6 p.m. in the Irish Fest tent hails from Stevens Point Wisconsin. Green Tea performs high-energy Irish music with a strong infusion of Celtic world-beat and contemporary improvisation. The distinctiveness of Green Tea's sound (the traditional blended with the new) sometimes defies categorization, fusing sounds of Celtic with Folk, Pop, African, Rock, Jazz and more! So be sure to mark your calendars and "Catch a great day, play and stay in New London". For more information: [[www.newdublin.com](http://www.newdublin.com)] or [[www.newlondonchamber.com](http://www.newlondonchamber.com)].

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## **Milwaukee President's Message**

Ah, March. This is the month of what seems like a million activities. We start with our 48th birthday party, then go directly to our parade, and Post Parade Party. After that, we have the Mass in Honor of Saint Patrick, and a week later, our annual Easter Rising Mass. And those are just Shamrock Club events.

Our March 6 meeting and 48th birthday party will feature the sashing of our Irish honorees, Irishman Joe Hughes, Irish Rose Linda Tuescher, and Parade Marshal Del Canon. There will also be a concert by the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. And birthday cake. Yum. And the members of the NYPD will be meeting in the same building, so we can have a chance to socialize with them, as well.

Two days later, we will be marching and enjoying Irish music and dance. Our 42nd annual St Patrick's Day Parade will feature the largest parade of any kind in the State of Wisconsin. The parade steps off at noon, and then is followed by the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration under one roof, our annual Post Parade Party. It features four stages, dancing, music and children's shows. And a reminder that there is no limit as to how many people can attend. It is the largest family based St. Patrick's Day event around. A special thank you to Mike O'Leary and Kris Pluskota for their hard work in organizing things. And a thank you to Westown, our partner in this venture.

On Saturday, March 15, our 23rd annual Mass in Honor of St. Patrick will take place at St. Patrick's Church, 723 S. 7th Street at 8:30 a.m. And on Sunday, March 23, our annual Easter Rising Mass will take place at the ICHC at 9:30 a.m. Father Michael Maher will celebrate it. A continental breakfast is available following the Mass.

There are a couple of Irish Fest events to talk about. The Green Tie Affair is March 15, and features Seamus Kennedy and all sorts of Irish music. It is a benefit for the Ward Music Archives. Also, on March 16, the Irish Fest Summer School is going to have a day at the Mitchell Park Domes. There will be crafts, Irish dance and music.

Westown will have a few events prior to Parade Day. On Friday, March 7, the Shamrock the Avenue will take place at the Millertime Pub.

It was good to see all the members of the various chapters at the Shamrock Club State Advisory Board meeting in Madison. We will have more information about the next one.

Buy our raffle tickets. The prizes are amazing. The raffle benefits our scholarship fund. We will have more details in Reflections on how to get

them. The drawing will be at the April meeting. Thank you to Sid Grinker's for underwriting the cost of the ticket printing. It has been a few years since we had a sponsor for them. And thanks to Clan Quinlan for their organizational ability. Please buy a lot of tickets.

Tom Smith's recent wake and funeral showcased that he was a remarkable man who touched many areas of the Irish community. His life was a testament to how he was able to affect so many. Tom will be missed by all of us.

Thanks to all who managed to brave the bad weather in February for the rescheduled meeting. Derek Byrne and Sean Beglan did a wonderful job of entertaining.

Just a reminder about the upcoming nominations and elections – we are going to have a number of open offices. Please think about running. We can really use the infusion of new blood to go with the wisdom of the past.

I will see you very often in March, it seems. And then again for the April meeting. And buy those raffle tickets. It is a bang-up raffle for a great cause.

– Brian Witt  
[Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com](mailto:Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com)

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# **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin 42nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade March 8, 2008**

The 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place at our original home along Wisconsin Avenue. March 8 will see the Shamrock Club's return to Wisconsin Avenue for the sixth time in over two decades. The parade is the largest family parade in Wisconsin. 2008 marks the continued participation of Westown with the Shamrock Club in bringing this spectacle to Milwaukee.

The 42nd Annual Shamrock Club of Wisconsin St. Patrick's Parade steps off at noon from 3rd and Wisconsin in front of the Grand Avenue Mall. Over 150 units will be a part of the largest parade in Wisconsin. Last year, in 2007, with just under 160 units, we presented the largest parade of any kind in Wisconsin.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan will be a part of the parade again this year. Over 100 representatives from the New York City Police Department will again be in attendance. Our 2008 Irish honorees, Irishman Joe Hughes, Irish Rose Linda Tuescher, and Parade Marshal Del Canon, will also have places of honor.

For information about the parade, please contact parade director Mike O'Leary at (414) 305-1961.

Noon Downtown Milwaukee (Parade will last approx. 90 minutes)

- Step-off is in front of the Grand Avenue Mall on 3rd and Wisconsin,
- Proceeding east to Plankinton
- North on Plankinton to Kilbourn
- West on Kilbourn to Old World 3rd Street • North on Old World 3rd Street to Juneau
- East on Juneau to Water Street
- South on Water Street

The Parade will feature 150+ units and will include local politicians and celebrities, floats, bagpipe and marching bands, Irish and Celtic organizations. The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Inc. has produced the Parade continuously since 1967. 2008 is the 165th anniversary of Milwaukee's 1st St. Patrick's Parade.

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## **Post Parade Party**

The annual Post Parade Party will take place on Saturday, March 8, from 1 until 6 p.m. It is the largest family oriented Saint Patrick's Day event in Wisconsin. There are four stages of continuous entertainment, including a dedicated children's area.

The City of Milwaukee has re-examined the ICHC, and there is no limit on attendance. People will not be turned away at the door.

We also need volunteers for the day. Call (414) 345-8800 for more information or to volunteer. Or email [dkplus@tds.net] for volunteering and information. The lineup is as follows:

### **HALLAMOR**

- 2:00 S.C. Pipes & Drums
- 2:30 Glencastle Irish Dancers
- 3:15 Kinsella Irish Dancers
- 4:00 U2Zoo
- 5:10 Trinity Irish Dancers

### **PARLOR B**

- 1:00 Ceol Cairde
- 2:15 Ce
- 3:30 Jeff Ward
- 4:45 The Gleasons

### **UPSTAIRS**

- 2:00 Blarney
- 3:15 Caledonian Scottish Dancers
- 3:45 Blarney

### **BASEMENT: CHILDRENS AREA**

3:00 Eileen O'Rourke: Leprechaun Stories  
4:15 Eileen O'Rourke: Leprechaun Stories

Malkin Wallace is the chair of this event.

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### **John Mc Givern, a Benefit Performance**

**March 17, 2008 / 7-9 p.m.**

John Mc Givern is well known in the Milwaukee area for his humor and his story telling ability. He will share these skills on St. Patrick's Day with his audience at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. John's show is a fund raiser for the ICHC.

Having grown up in an Irish Catholic family in Milwaukee, John uses his life experiences as a backdrop for much of that which delights his audiences. Some of his tales of Milwaukee and the Emerald Isle are also very moving and poignant.

Opening the show at 7 p.m., and joining John are the award winning Glencastle Irish Dancers and the multi-talented band, Áthas. This sensational combination will make St. Patrick's Day 2008, a memorable one, enjoyable in every way.

The reserved seat tickets for the show are \$30 and can be obtained by ordering at the website, [www.ichc.net] or by calling (414) 345-8800. There is a \$2 charge per credit card order.

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### **Celtic Women Lectures**

The March and April lectures will feature topics from the Welsh and Cornish heritages. On March 7, Mary Waller, a retired professor of education, and recently a visitor to her father's homeland in Wales, will speak about "The Lost Princess of Wales". This was Gwenllian who was kidnapped as a baby and lived out her life in seclusion. A true story.

Jerome Trewyn, descendent of Cornwall and Wales ancestors, will relate "Gifts the Cornish Have Given the World". And they are many. He will speak on April 4 to our lecture group. Please join us for a cup of tea and cookies as we enjoy these topics.

All lectures are held from 5:30-7 p.m. at the ICHC. \$7 admission. Everyone

welcome! Please call (414) 257-3770 if you have questions.

– Jean Bills

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## Spring Hallamór Concert #2

**Cathie Ryan**

**March 14, 2008 8 p.m.**

**Curtis Crossroads Band Opening 7 p.m.**

No better way to begin the St. Patrick's Day weekend than to listen to the magnificent voice of the "Best Female Vocalist of the Decade". This title was given to Cathie Ryan by The Irish American News. Cathie Ryan has long been known as a jewel in the Irish musical crown. She is "one of the leading voices in Celtic music," states the LA Times, and one of the top 100 Irish Americans according to the Irish America Magazine.

After seven years as the lead singer of the musical group Cherish the Ladies, Cathie began her solo career in 1995. She has released four critically acclaimed CDs, and has been featured on more than 40 compilations of Celtic Music.

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center  
2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. – Milwaukee, WI 53233

[[www.ichc.net](http://www.ichc.net)] 414-345-8800

Tickets: \$19 Advance/reserved, \$21 Day of Concert  
\$2 service fee for credit card orders.

– Gwen Sisk

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## Color Guard News and Notes

Welcome to the Green Season! It sure has been a long winter and I look forward to seeing some green very soon. Even if it is only green beer and shamrocks! The band is hoping for snowless steets for the St. Patrick's Day parade on the 8th, but with only three weeks to go we could be marching through eight feet of snow instead! Let's hope.

We're busy, as usual, for the debut of our 2008 season. See our website [[www.sccgpd.com](http://www.sccgpd.com)] for complete details, but here is the short list for March:

- 2 – Brendan Heart Fund at Derrys Pub
- 8 – Milwaukee St. Patricks Day parade and post party
- 9 – Southside Chicago Irish Parade
- 15 – New London Parade
- 15 – St. Patrick Mass
- 23 – Easter Rising Mass

For the St. Patrick's Mass, see some of our very gracious former members come out of retirement to represent us at the mass. To you all, a huge thank you for your time and help. Could we talk you into donning the kilt for another season?

Other news... I hear a congratulations is in order to our pipe sergeant Mike Cor-nell and his lovely fiancée, Leah. Congrats from the band. I was bartending on their first date at O'Connor's Pub and was proudly there when he popped the question a few weeks ago. He wrangled up a few of us pipers to make it a grand scene and huge surprise for her. Lucky girl.

On a sad note, a sad farewell to Tom Smith. While never a part of the band or color guard per se, he was always a proud supporter of our endeavours along with his wife, and former Shamrock Club President, Julie. I remember a Tartan Ball two years ago where I had the pleasure of sitting near him and getting to sip a few bits o' whisky with him that night. I can see his happy face in my memory and know that he will surely be missed by many. A toast to Tom. Farewell, our friend. We'll never forget you. Slan agus beannact.

We have a new fundraiser happen-ing in April. A Dinner Train and Silent Auction April 26! Cost is \$80 per person, \$150 per couple. Enjoy Irish music while aboard the elegant dinner train at the East Troy Electric Railroad. It sounds like an absolutely fabulous night. See Heather Majusiak for more details or our website.

Well my friends. I'll keep this short as I know you're all getting ready for the green season. As for me, I 'm writing this as I sip my tequila from a beach chair in Cozumel so I'll be back soon to get ready as well.

See you all in March!

– Noel Tylla, 5th year piper

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### **Brendan Heart Fund Benefit**

On March 2, 2008, between the hours of 1 and 6 p.m., the Emerald Society of Wisconsin will be sponsoring the 18th annual benefit for the Brendan Heart Fund of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

The Emerald Society of Wisconsin, an organization of members of the criminal justice system, held the first Brendan Benefit in 1990. The Benefits have always been held prior to St. Patrick's Day at Derry Hegarty's Irish

Pub, 5328 W. Bluemound Ave. This Benefit is designed to be a family event and we continue to be a family oriented event. The cost of the attendance has the family in mind, \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.

The afternoon's entertainment will feature Atlantic Wave, Blarney, the Greater Milwaukee Fire & Police Pipes and Drums, the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums and the Glencastle Irish Dancers. In addition to the great entertainment, we will be featuring our "monster raffle".

Mark this date, March 2, on your family calendar and join us for a fine afternoon of Irish song and dance. Information can be obtained at the below addresses.

Mailing Address: Emerald Society of Wisconsin; P.O. Box 24; Milwaukee, WI 532001-0024. On the web: [<http://www.emeraldsociety.us>].

– Pete Fleming

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### **March Music**

Join Shamrock Club members as they play out this St Patrick's Season.

#### **Chuck Ward and Blarney**

[<http://blarneymilwaukee.com>]

- 1 – Paddy's Pub, 8 p.m.
- 2 – Brendan Heart Fund, Derry's Pub, 1:30 to 5 p.m.
- 7 – King of Glory Coffee House, 8 to 10 p.m.
- 8 – St. Rita's Parish "Forty Shades of Green", 7:30 p.m.
- 14 – St. Brendan's Inn, Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
- 16 – Irish Family Day at Mitchell Park Domes,
- 17 – O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, Elm Grove, 7 p.m.

#### **Kristina Paris and Ceol Cairde**

[<http://www.ceolcairde.com>]

- 8 – Shamrock Club Post Parade Party, 1 p.m.
- 8 – "Shenanigans" Fundraiser, Ceol Cairde concert 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Holy Family School, Sheboygan
- 14 – Meadowmere Assisted Living Facility, 2:30 p.m.
- 15 – 3 Pillars Campus, Holz Pavillion, Dousman
- 17 – St. Pat.'s Lunch Concert, Alverno College, noon
- 17 – St John's on the Lake, 2 p.m.
- 17 – Eagan's on Water, 7 p.m.

#### **Michael Tierney with Tinker Boys**

[<http://www.tinkerboys.com/>]

- 6 – Tinker Solo, Stone Bank Pub, Oconomowoc; 7:30 p.m.
- 13 – Tinker Solo, County Clare, 10 p.m.
- 20 – Trio at Wells Street Tavern, Delafield, 7 p.m.
- 29 – Shilling's in Racine, 9 p.m.

**Michael Tierney with Reilly**

[<http://www.reillyrocks.com>]

7 – Shamrock/Westown pre-parade bash; Millertime Pub, 7 p.m.

8 – Leff's Luckytown

8 – McBob's, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

14 – House of Guinness, Waukesha, 9:30 p.m.

15 – O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, Elm Grove, 9 p.m.

**Bill and Lin O'Connor – Theiss and O'Connor**

[<http://www.oconnormusic.net>]

1 – The Plymouth Center, Plymouth, 7 p.m.

2 – St. Patrick's Day Auction/Dinner for St. John's Cathedral Parish, Italian Community Center; 4 p.m.

14 – Martha Merrells Books and Cafe, Waukesha, 7 p.m.

15 – Borders Books and Music, Port Washington Rd. and Brown Deer Rd.

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## Nomination of Milwaukee Officers

Nominations for officers of the Milwaukee chapter will take place at the March and April meetings. Persons nominated must be members in good standing of the Shamrock Club, with dues paid in full, and must be present for their nominations. Elections will take place at the May 1, 2008 meeting.

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## Thomas J. Smith Dies

Tom Smith, the longtime membership chair of the Shamrock Club, died on January 30. He was 71. Tom is survived by his wife Julia, his children Sheila, Thomas (Kathleen) and Bridget (William) Jaskulski, and his grandchildren Colleen, Brian, Nathan, Stephen, Maeve, Alanna and Deirdre. Tom was very active in the Milwaukee Irish Community where he served as the Shamrock Club membership chair, 2002 Shamrock Club Irishman of the Year, as well as Irish Fest transportation coordinator and Emerald Society board member.

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## 23rd Annual Mass

## **In Honor of Saint Patrick March 15**

The 23rd Annual Mass in Honor of Saint Patrick will take place on Saturday, March 15, at Saint Patrick's Church, 723 South 7 Street, Milwaukee, at 8:30 a.m. Father Terry Brennan, S.J., will be the lead celebrant.

The Mass will feature members of the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums, as well as our 2008 Irish honorees. There will be readings in both Irish and English.

Following the Mass there will be a full Irish Breakfast offered at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue. The Irish breakfast will cost \$7 per adult. Youth portions will also be available. We will also offer a continental breakfast for \$3. The Irish breakfast is being offered by Shamrock Club member Packy Campbell, owner of Packy's on Howell. Preorder breakfasts by calling Kris at the ICHC, (414) 345-8800, or by email at [dkplus@tds.net.]

Flower donations are needed. Please contact Chuck and Bonnie McLaughlin about donating for the purchase of flowers for the Mass. The flowers will also be used at the Easter Rising Mass on March 23 at the ICHC. Dedications for the flowers will be noted in the Mass booklet.

There will be two buses available for transport of people to and from the ICHC for the Mass and back again for the breakfast.

For BUS reservations or information contact:  
Chuck and Bonnie McLaughlin  
12007 W. Walker St., West Allis, WI 53214; Phone (414) 771-0458

Send self-addressed, stamped envelope. Make checks payable to Shamrock Club.

Mail reservation for BUS ONLY

Bus: 23rd Annual Mass In Honor of Saint Patrick

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Reservations will not be taken after March 3

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## **Easter Rising Mass**

## March 23

The annual Shamrock Club's Easter Rising Mass will take place on Sunday, March 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue. Father Michael Maher will celebrate.

The Easter Rising Mass commemorates Easter Monday, 1916, when the Irish rebellion started against the British empire. The Mass was started in the 1970s by Kit Nash, whose father was held captive during the Irish rebellion.

Following the Mass will be a continental breakfast, with a free-will offering asked to defray costs.

For information about the Mass, or being a Eucharistic Minister, contact Betty Mikush at (414) 541-8215. Call Veronica Ceszynski at (414) 228-8621 for information about the breakfast.

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#### **Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes & Drums**

## **1st Annual Dinner Train & Silent Auction**

**Saturday, April 26, 2008**

4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour • 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner Train

Relax to the view of the countryside and Irish music playing aboard the Elegant Dinner Train at the East Troy Electric Railroad

Cash bar open for the duration of the evening. Restrooms available on train.

Silent Auction 4:45 – 6:30 p.m.

Winners will be notified before leaving for the night.

Dinner for the evening will include:

Tenderloin Medallions and Pecan Crusted Stuffed Chicken /  
Fresh Tomato Bruschetta on Baguette Bread as an appetizer /  
Mixed Green Salad with a choice of two dressings /  
Dinner rolls & butter / Red Skin Potatoes in Garlic and Dill Butter /  
Honey Glazed Carrots / Death by Chocolate Torte / Coffee, Tea and Milk

Cost is \$80 per person / \$150 per couple

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE SHAMROCK CLUB COLOR  
GUARD, PIPES & DRUMS.**

East Troy Electric Railroad is located approx. 30 minutes Southwest of Milwaukee, just off of I-43 in East Troy

Name(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$80 per ticket / \$150 per couple)

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to our Director:  
Richard Pfeiffer, please put "dinner train" in memo line.

Mail payments and direct questions to:  
Heather Majusiak,  
1874 W. Windlake Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
(414) 630-4813, [heather@sccgpd.com]

You will receive your tickets in the mail 1 to 2 weeks after submitting payment. A map to the railroad will be included with your tickets.

For more information, visit: [www.sccgpd.com]

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## **A Gathering of Irish Roses**



*Irish Roses: (left to right) Jean Bills '98, Betty Mikush '86, Maggie Blaha '95, Jeanne McCue '73, Mary McAndrews 2000.*

Jeanne McCue gave a lecture recently about her experiences in Bosnia where she travels twice each year on humanitarian visits. She was the very first Irish Rose honored by the Shamrock Club. She spoke to the Celtic Women at the ICHC in January.

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### **ICHC Announces Volunteer of the Year**



Shamrock Club member Kristina Paris, volunteer since the inception of the ICHC, was recently recognized as their Volunteer of the Year 2008. Included on her long list of valuable services given are:

- Arts & Entertainment committee member
- Coordinated bulk mailings of the An Gael Talk and concert brochures
- Occasionally designs flyers and inserts
- Distributes concert brochures and flyers
- Volunteers at special events (feissana, wedding show, concerts)
- MC Hallamor concerts and sells cds
- Books bands for year-round monthly ceili dances, produces and distributes ceili calendar
- Flute player in Ceol Cairde and the Wise Maids for ceilis and Hallamor concert opening acts

Congratulations, Kristina!

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### **Scholarship Raffle**

The Shamrock Club Scholarship Raffle is happy to announce a number of exciting prizes. The Grand Prize is two round trip tickets on Air Tran airline to anywhere in the continental United States to which they fly.

- Grand Prize: 2 ROUND TRIP TICKETS FROM AIR TRAN AIRLINES

- 1st Prize: Golf Package at Brown Deer from Milwaukee County
- 2nd Prize: A pair of Season Tickets from the ICHC
- 3rd Prize: Waterford Crystal from Waterford Wedgewood Store, Pleasant Prairie
- 4th Prize: One night stay at County Clare Inn - Milwaukee
- 5th Prize: Beleek vase
- 6th Prize: \$250 Silver Celtic knot bracelet from Reflective Images
- 7th Prize: Irish framed photo by Ken Tehan - \$300 value
- 8th Prizes: Gift cards to local and national restaurants

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## Join the Shamrock Club

It is the Saint Patrick's Season, a time to be Irish. You can enjoy your Irish roots, or love of Ireland's culture, all year long with a membership in the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin. We really would like you to help us in our celebration of Irish life. You will be a part of one of the most historied and distinguished Irish organizations in this country. But we don't want to rest on our laurels. After a half century, we are just getting started. And we really want you to help us make the next half even better. Join. You know you have been putting it off, so now is the time to take the step. For the first time, or again.

### **Yes, I want to join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin!!**

Family \$25     Single \$20

New     Rejoin

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This membership form for the Shamrock Club is for Milwaukee and New Dublin chapters at the \$20/\$25 rate. Other chapters have higher dues structures and must be contacted seperately.

Mail to: Milwaukee Membership Chair  
 Shamrock Club of Wisconsin,  
 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue,  
 Milwaukee, WI 53233

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## **Sunshine Club**

Maggie Blaha recently had surgery. Celeste Jaslosky was recently hospitalized. Muriel Crowley had knee replacement surgery. Erin Canon sprained and hairlined fractured her wrist.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

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## **Members' Doings**

After 21 previous trips to Ireland Marie Cramer's sons are taking her for a "swan song" for her 90th birthday. A member since shortly after the club's inception, Marie introduced us to charter trips to Ireland.

Linda and Tom Tuescher recently went to San Francisco on vacation. Then, Linda went to Dublin, Ireland, on a purchasing expedition for the Sales Booth. Russ and Karen Fink spent Valentine's Day in Florida. Ed Ward was in Ireland and Scotland for Milwaukee Irish Fest. He attended the Celtic Connections festival. Noel Tylla was also in Scotland recently. Matt and Rachel Larson spent a week away in Hodag country.

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